

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 4593

E.O. 11653: GDS

TAGS : PFOR YBTUR US

SUBJECT: NEW INFORMATION ON SHCHELOKOV AND BREZHNEV VISITS:

YUGOSLAV EMIGRES IN KIEV

1. DURING INITIAL CALL BY POLITICAL COUNSELOR ON ALEXEI NIKIFOROV, FIRST SECRETARY OF SOVIET EMBASSY, RECENTLY CONCLUDED VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA OF SOVIET INTERIOR MINISTER SHCHELOKOV, POSSIBLE BREZHNEV VISIT, AND YUGOSLAV EMIGRES IN KIEV WERE DISCUSSED.

2. SHCHELOKOV: NIKIFOROV SAID SHCHELOKOV VISIT HERE COMBINED BUSINESS AND PLEASURE. SHCHELOKOV ARRIVED IN BELGRADE IN LATE JULY WITH ENTIRE FAMILY, HAD SUBSTANTIVE MEETING WITH INTERIOR MINISTER HERLJEVIC, THEN WENT ON MONTH-LONG VACATION IN REPUBLICS AND PROVINCES, MEETING THERE WITH LOCAL INTERIOR CHIEFS AND AGAIN FOR TWO DAYS WITH HERLJEVIC ON WAY BACK TO MOSCOW. NIKIFOROV SAID SUCH VISITS, WHICH HE LABELED "GOVERNMENTAL TOURISM" HAVE BECOMETRADITIONAL BETWEEN YUGOSLAVIA AND USSR, THAT SCHHELOKOV HAD BEEN INVITED LAST YEAR DURING HERLJEVIC'S VISIT TO MOSCOW (HERLJEVIC DEL SAW ANDROVOP AND SHCHELOKOV DECEMBER 3-5, 1975).

3. NIKIFOROV SAID SEVERAL LOWER-LEVEL DELEGATIONS HAVE
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BEEN EXCHANGED BETWEEN TWO INTERIOR MINISTRIES CONCERNING

EACH COUNTRY'S EXPERIENCE WITH ECONOMIC CRIMES AND TRAFFIC PROBLEMS. HE SPECIFICALLY SAID "SECURITY" ORGANS NOT INVOLVED. NIKIFOROV SAID HE EXPECTED FURTHER EXCHANGES IN FUTURE.

4. BREZHNEV VISIT: NIKIFOROV SAW NO OBSTACLES TO BREZHNEV VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA SAYING IT WOULD PROBABLY LAST "ONLY A WEEKEND" AND THAT ONLY REAL PROBLEM WAS FINDING TIME ON BREZHNEV'S BUSY FALL SCHEDULE, CITING BREZHNEV'S TOP PRIORITIES AS US VISIT AND UPCOMING PARTY CONGRESS. REUTERS AND DIPLOMATIC SOURCES HERE THINK BREZHNEV WILL COME TO YUGOSLAVIA THIS FALL. NIKIFOROV COMMENTED IN PASSING THAT DURING HIS JUST COMPLETED VACATION IN MOSCOW HE GAINED IMPRESSION FOREIGN MINISTRY WORKING HARD FOR IMPROVED US-SOVIET RELATIONS BUT THAT SOME IN CENTRAL COMMITTEE STILL HAVE RESERVATIONS. BUT HE AFFIRMED BREZHNEV AND REST OF TOP LEADERSHIP DETERMINED HAVE PARTY CONGRESS CONFIRM DETENTE POLICY.

5. KIEV EMIGRES: WHILE DISCUSSING LAST YEAR'S BAR COMINFORMIST EPISODE, NIKIFOROV SAID THAT IN 1974 YUGOSLAVSHAD MADE REPRESENTATIONS TO SOVIETS CONCERNING ACTIVITIES OF YUGOSLAV EMIGRES BUT HAD NEVER SPECIFICALLY ACCUSED SOVIET GOVERNMENT OF DIRECT INVOLVEMENT. NIKIFOROV SAID TWELVE EMIGRES ACTIVE IN KIEV HAD BEEN ORDERED TO REPORT TO LOCAL PARTY AND SECURITY ORGANS AND SOME WERE LATER EXPELLED FROM COUNTRY. NIKIFOROV SAID YUGOSLAV EMIGRES WERE ALSO EXPELLED FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND HUNGARY. HE SAID THIS HAD MADE MAJOR IMPRESSION ON YUGOSLAV LEADERS AND THAT DURING BREZHNEV-TITO MEETING AT HELSINKI ATMOSPHERE EXTREMELY WARM (CITING USE OF FAMILIAR "TI" FORM IN RUSSIAN USED BY TWO LEADERS). NIKIFOROV ASSERTED ONLY YUGOSLAV REQUEST AT HELSINKI HAD BEEN FOR SOVIETS TO BUY YUGOSLAV MEAT EC HAD RENEGED ON. HE SAID SOVIETS HAVE RECENTLY INCREASED MEAT PURCHASES.

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